



CHL-related bills passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature

The information below is a brief summary of CHL-related bills passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature.

House Bill 48

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to the procedure where a person may renew a CHL.

- Eliminates the requirements for CHL holders to complete a renewal course, or demonstrate proficiency, to renew the license.
- CHL holders will continue to have an option to submit the renewal application online.
- CHL may be renewed for up to one year after expiration. There is no grace period for continuing to carry, once the CHL has expired.

House Bill 333

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to requiring notice of a hotel's firearms policy and other guest policies; providing a criminal penalty.

- Requires hotels to clearly state their firearms policy on their website and in written guest policies.

House Bill 485

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to the amount of fees paid by certain peace officers, correctional officers, members of state military forces, and veterans of the armed forces for a license to carry a concealed handgun and to the issuance of such a license to certain peace officers and members of state military forces; authorizing a fee.

- Reduces the fee to \$25 for certain peace officers. Full-time peace officers already pay a reduced fee. This bill expands the criteria by removing the requirement for the officer to be full-time. Peace officers who wish to pay the reduced fee must be employed by a law enforcement agency.
- Reduces the fee for both an original and a renewal for veterans from \$70 and \$35 respectively, to \$25.
- Authorizes a reduced fee of \$25 for correctional officers employed by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). This new law authorizes a fee reduction only. TDCJ correctional officers may apply online under the special condition of "active peace officer," but will be required to complete the required four (4) to six (6) hour CHL course. Additionally, these applicants must provide proof of current employment with TDCJ.
- See [CHL Fee Schedule](#).

House Bill 698

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to certain procedures for submitting legible and classifiable fingerprints with an application for a license to carry a concealed handgun.

- Directs DPS to establish a procedure for submission of fingerprints for CHL applicants who reside in a county with a population of 46,000 or less and does not reside within a 25-mile radius of a facility capable of processing the electronic fingerprints.
- See [eligibility and detailed instructions](#).

House Bill 1009

Effective: Immediately

Relating to the creation of a new category of law enforcement officer who shall be designated a school marshal, the training and appointment of certain employees of a school district or open-enrollment charter school as school marshals, and the rights, restrictions, limitations and responsibilities as school marshals; authorizing the imposition of a fee.

- This bill will be known as the "Protection of Children Act."
- The [Texas Commission on Law Enforcement \(TCOLE\)](#) is the primary agency responsible for implementation.

House Bill 1349

Effective: Jan. 1, 2014

Relating to the information that may be requested by DPS from a person applying for or renewing a CHL.

- DPS has modified its processes and application system to eliminate the requirement of a Social Security Number (SSN) for the CHL application. A SSN is no longer required to apply for a Texas CHL.

House Bill 3142

Effective: Immediately

Relating to handguns used to demonstrate proficiency in handgun use for purposes of obtaining a CHL.

- The category of the handgun used for proficiency demonstration is no longer required, whether a semi-automatic or a revolver was used.
- RSD has developed changes to remove the weapon category from the printed CHL to reflect the individual may carry either a semi-automatic or a non-semi-automatic handgun. Changes to the laminated license are being implemented, effective May 1, 2014.

House Bill 3370

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to the authority of certain retired peace officers and former reserve law enforcement officers to carry certain firearms.

- This bill expands the criteria for certain retired peace officers to obtain a CHL, including a discounted fee. Applicants will need to provide a sworn statement from the head of the law enforcement agency where the applicant last served. The statement must meet the requirements set forth in Texas Government Code 411.1992(b).

Senate Bill 164

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to the issuance to veterans of specially marked licenses to carry a concealed handgun and specially marked personal identification certificates.

- Authorizes DPS to print "Veteran" on the laminated CHL
- Changes to the laminated license have been made to allow for the "Veteran" designation. Licenses issued to individuals who have applied as a veteran now display "Veteran" on the face of the license.

Senate Bill 299

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to the intentional display of a handgun by a person licensed to carry a concealed handgun.

- This bill amends the Texas Penal Code by changing the language from "fail to conceal" to "unintentional display."

Senate Bill 864

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to a handgun proficiency course that is taken to obtain or renew a CHL.

- Reduces the classroom training house for the CHL course to a minimum of four (4) hours and a maximum of six (6) hours. The time spent for proficiency demonstration will no longer be included in the classroom training.
- Original applicants must attend the classroom instruction and complete the proficiency demonstration in person in Texas.
- The course material must still cover the same four topics.
- Detailed information for CHL Instructors, including a course outline, new student test and updated forms is on the CHL webpage.

Senate Bill 1857

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to the certification of certain qualified handgun instructors to conduct school safety training.

- DPS is currently developing rules and procedures to implement this bill. More information will be posted on the DPS website as it becomes available.

Senate Bill 1907

Effective: Sept. 1, 2013

Relating to the transportation and storage of firearms and ammunition by CHL holders in private vehicles on the campuses of certain institutions of higher education.

- Prohibits a place of higher education (such as a college), from prohibiting a student from storing a handgun and / or ammunition in a vehicle on campus.